



International City Presents:

The Monthly Mulligan

December 2020

Update from the Superintendent

The weather has been pretty great for golfing through the fall, but it has also been ideal for disease growth. Most turfgrass diseases thrive in mild temperatures, warm days and cool nights. Fungus and disease are exceptionally prolific when these temperatures are accompanied by overcast, rainy, and wet conditions. These same types of organisms effect turfgrass. Turfgrass managers do many things to try to prevent diseases; wetting agents help moisture infiltrate faster to avoid saturated soils, fungicides are applied for both foliar and soil-borne pathogens, and cultural practices like spiking or needle-tining increase oxygen in the root zone. The overall goal is to reduce the time the turf spends saturated and suppress any pathogens that lay dormant in the soil. Our main problem comes from the inability of our greens to manage water infiltration. Since an impermeable clay layer exists less than a foot below the surface, the sandy root zone mix on top catches lots of water and leaves it nowhere to go. This prolongs the amount of time the grass stays wet and provides an ideal place for pathogens to take hold. The worst of the pathogens that grow in these conditions are Pythium species, which are what took root on our greens after Hurricane Sally dumped 7" of rain on the property. There are only a couple of fungicides that have any effect on Pythium once it begins to grow, and it spreads by flowing water and mowing equipment. We threw the kitchen sink at it but still took on considerable damage. To add insult to injury, about the time we had rid the property of this active pathogen, tropical storm Zeta dropped another 3" of rain, which lead to another outbreak of disease on the putting greens. We now have to try to revive the areas lost with lots of cultivation through the winter and fertilization in the spring. It's safe to say we will be doing some sod work come spring to get the greens back into shape. Soil health directly correlates to plant health, until we have the ability to correct the problems with the soil on the greens, we will fight these battles. Thanks so much for being patient with us while we navigate these tricky waters.

Tournament of Champions

The Tournament of Champions is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. It will be a shotgun start (time TBD). Save the date! We'll see you there!

Events for the Month of December:

December 12 ~ Tournament of Champions
[Delayed Opening]

December 25 ~ Christmas Day [Closed]



International Open

More than 90 players came out for the first annual International Open Disc Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 21st. Great fun was had by all! Keep an eye out for the 2021 date to be announced.

Closed Christmas Day

We will be closed on Christmas day, but don't worry, you can join us on Saturday, December 26th to try out those new clubs you got!

Open New Year's Day

You read that right! We will be open on New Year's Day. You know what they say, "What you do the first day of the year, you do all year long." So come spend the day with us!



72 Play Golf Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088
(478) 322-0276
ICGC@wrga.gov

